Amendment to the Claims:

The listing of claim will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-51 (canceled)

Claim 52 (currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition containing a polymer, which is off-white to white in color, and which polymer contains one or more metals in cationic form, [[according to claim 32,]] as a matrix for a drug compound.

Claim 53 (previously presented): A pharmaceutical composition, according to claim 52, comprising bromocriptine as the drug compound.

Claim 54 (previously presented): A pharmaceutical composition, according to claim 52, comprising a peptide as the drug compound.

Claim 55 (previously presented): A pharmaceutical composition, according to claim 52, comprising somatostatin as the drug compound.

Claim 56 (previously presented): A pharmaceutical composition, according to claim 52, comprising octreotide, or an acid addition salt thereof, as the drug compound.

Claim 57 (currently amended): A process, for the preparation of the pharmaceutical composition of claim 52, which comprises combining a ~~the~~polymer which is off-white to white in color, and which polymer contains one or more metals in cationic form, ~~of claim 32~~ with the drug compound to form an implantate or a microparticle.

Claim 58 (new): A pharmaceutical composition, according to claim 52, wherein the off-white to white color is further defined by the requirements of the colour strengths of reference solutions B_2-B_9 of the brown colour test of the European Pharmacopeia, 2nd Edition (1980) part I, Section V, 6.2.

Claim 59 (new): A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 58 wherein the purified polymer is a polylactide polymer.

Claim 60 (new): A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 59 wherein the polylactide polymer is a polylactide co-glycolide polymer.

Claim 61 (new): A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 60 wherein the polylactide co-glycolide polymer contains Sn++ ions as the cationic metal ion(s).

Claim 62 (new): A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 61 wherein the polylactide co-glycolide polymer contains the Sn++ in a concentration of from about 1.0 to about 1.5 parts per million (ppm).

Claim 63 (new): A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 52 wherein said metal ion has ethyl hexanoate as a corresponding salt anion.

Claim 64 (new): A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 62 wherein the polylactide co-glycolide polymer is a polylactide co-glycolide having a mean molecular weight (Mw) of from 25,000 to 100,000 and a polydispersity ($Mw/_{Mn}$) of from 1.2 to 3.0.

Claim 65 (new): A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 60 wherein the polylactide co-glycolide polymer is linear.

Claim 66 (new): A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 65 wherein the linear polylactide co-glycolide polymer has a lactidal glycolide molar ratio of 100-25/0-75.

Claim 67 (new): A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 65 wherein the linear polylactide co-glycolide polymer has a lactidal glycolide molar ratio of 75-25/25-75.

Claim 68 (new): A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 65 wherein the linear polylactide co-glycolide polymer has a lactidal glycolide molar ratio of 60-40/40-60.

Claim 69 (new): A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 60 wherein the polylactide co-glycolide polymer is star-shaped.

Claim 70 (new): A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 69 wherein the star-shaped polylactide co-glycolide polymer is an ester of a polyol containing at least 3 hydroxyl groups.

Claim 71 (new): A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 52, wherein said matrix has surface acidic groups.

Claim 72 (new): A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 52, wherein said matrix has surface carboxylic groups.

Claim 73 (new): A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 52, wherein the matrix is activated charcoal.